MULTI AWARD WINNING!

SCIENCE + ANIMALS + PUZZLES + PEOPLE + ARTS + PHOTOS + BOOKS + SPORTS + A DAY FOR PIGEONS

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
NASA picks next crew of astronauts
p2

BOOK CLUB
Epic new fantasy series
p22

HOW TO
Check out our Nature Photo Contest!
p24

June 26, 2026 • Vol. 7, Issue 323 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

KNICKS IN FIVE!

After a 53-year wait and a historic comeback, New York wins the NBA championship p5

Team captain Jalen Brunson with the championship trophy and his MVP trophy

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Knicks defeated the San Antonio Spurs in five games.
- The last time the Knicks won the NBA title was in 1973.
- They erased a 29-point deficit in Game 4.

TINY HOME
Astronauts on Artemis missions live in the Orion spacecraft crew module, which can hold up to four people for 21 days.

Left to right: Andre Douglas, Luca Parmitano, Randy Bresnik, and Frank Rubio

A new look

When Artemis astronauts walk on the Moon, they will wear stretchy gray bodysuits designed by Italian fashion brand Prada. The Liquid Cooling and Ventilation Garment, which features yarn made with titanium and tubes that will carry water to cool the body, will be layered under a big outer suit.

NASA chooses Artemis III astronauts

On June 9, NASA introduced the four astronauts who will take part in the next phase of the US space agency's ambitious Artemis program, which has a goal of sending humans to the surface of the Moon for the first time since 1972.

What happened?

NASA announced the crew members for the Artemis III mission, which is scheduled for 2027. NASA astronaut Randy Bresnik will be the commander, and Luca Parmitano, an astronaut with the European Space Agency, will be the pilot. Frank Rubio and Andre Douglas, both of NASA, will serve as mission specialists. The crew will travel into Earth's orbit aboard an Orion spacecraft, where they will conduct a series of crucial systems and equipment tests. NASA astronaut Bob Hines will train as a backup crew member.

What is the Artemis program?

Artemis is a multipart NASA program that aims to return humans to the Moon as early as 2028 and build a permanent base there by the end of the decade. NASA hopes to apply what it learns from Artemis to future missions to the planet Mars. Artemis II was completed in April, when an Orion spacecraft carried four astronauts on a 10-day mission around the Moon. The crew traveled 252,756 miles—the farthest into space humans have ever gone and the first such voyage into deep space in more than 50 years. The goal of Artemis III, which will be a two-week mission, is to test whether Orion can connect to a Moon lander in space. Two Moon landers are being developed by private space companies Blue Origin and SpaceX. Both landers will travel to space, where Artemis III will attempt to dock with each one individually.

Who are the commander and pilot?

Bresnik, age 58, is a California native who served as a pilot for the US Marines and was selected as a NASA astronaut in 2004. He has traveled to space twice before, first flying aboard the space shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station (ISS, a laboratory orbiting 254 miles from Earth) in 2009, then traveling on the Soyuz MS-05 spacecraft to the ISS in 2017. Since 2018, Bresnik has worked on testing and development of Artemis program technology and spacecraft. As the commander for Artemis III, he will lead the entire mission. Parmitano, who is 49 and from Italy, served in the Italian Air Force and became an astronaut in 2009. He has also traveled to space twice before. He was a flight engineer on the Italian Space Agency's first long-duration mission to the ISS in 2013, then returned to the ISS in 2019, becoming the first Italian and third European commander. As the Artemis III pilot, he is second in command after Bresnik and will be responsible for maneuvering the spacecraft.

Who are the mission specialists?

Artemis III will mark the second mission to space for Rubio, age 50. A Florida native, he spent more than a year at the ISS in 2022 and 2023, breaking the record for the longest spaceflight by a US astronaut. He has served in the US Army for nearly 30 years and is also a medical doctor. Douglas, who is 40 years old and from Virginia, joined NASA in 2021 and will be making his first spaceflight. He has served in the US Coast Guard, where he conducted search and rescue and salvage expeditions, and has also developed space exploration systems and undersea warfare platforms. Mission specialists perform many duties, including monitoring emergency equipment and life support systems, like the water supply.

What will happen next?

The astronauts have begun training on the Orion spacecraft systems at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. They will also help develop the Blue Origin and SpaceX landers. NASA will name a separate crew of astronauts for the Artemis IV mission.

US and Iran sign ceasefire deal

On June 15, the US and Iran signed a short-term agreement to end the fighting between their countries that has been going on since February. The deal included a 60-day ceasefire (pause in fighting) and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping channel for much of the world's oil.

The war began when the US and Israel attacked Iran and has caused global tensions and raised oil and gas prices. The agreement came after months of talks between the US and Iran and gives them 60 days to negotiate a permanent peace deal. Issues to be resolved include limiting Iran's nuclear capabilities and easing US sanctions (financial penalties) against Iran, as well as an end to fighting between Israel and a terrorist group called Hezbollah, which Iran supports.

When *The Week Junior* went to press on June 17, leaders from countries including Japan, France, and the UK had praised the agreement and called for the reopening of the strait. However, Israeli leaders said they did not support the plan. A formal signing ceremony was set for June 19.

David Hockney in front of his work *A Year in Normandie*

TOP BID
In 2018, David Hockney's 1972 painting *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)* sold for $90.3 million at auction, a record at the time.

Legendary artist is remembered

David Hockney, one of the world's most influential modern artists, died on June 12 at age 88. Over a career of more than 70 years, the painter, photographer, and stage designer was known for his colorful and innovative work.

Born in Yorkshire, England, in 1937, Hockney showed an interest in art at a young age. While still a student at the prestigious Royal College of Art in London, he gained attention for his bold and imaginative work. He soon became a leading figure in the 1960s pop art movement.

Hockney moved to Los Angeles, California, in the 1960s and began creating colorful paintings inspired by the city's sunlight and outdoor lifestyle. These included his swimming pool scenes, which became symbols of California living. His subjects varied widely and included portraits of friends and family and landscapes of his native Yorkshire, all captured in his vibrant style. "The world is very, very beautiful if you look at it," Hockney once said.

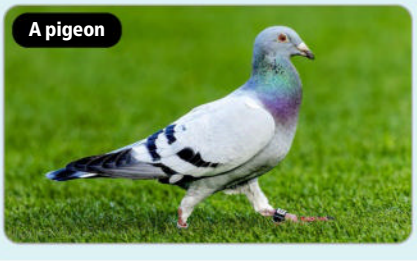
He also designed sets for ballet and opera productions, brought greater visibility to LGBTQ+ art and artists, and embraced new technology. He began using computer graphics in the 1980s and later created drawings on iPads. One of his largest projects, *A Year in Normandie* (above), was created in 2020 and consisted of 100 digital paintings of the changing seasons in northern France.

Tributes poured in following the artist's death. King Charles III of the UK called Hockney "one of life's true originals." Alex Farquharson, head of the Tate Gallery in London, said, "He taught us about the joy of looking, seeing things the rest of us failed to notice."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

HONORING PIGEONS

The US marked Pigeon Appreciation Day—created to honor Cher Ami, a homing pigeon who carried a message that saved nearly 200 soldiers in World War I—on June 13. (For our own pigeon appreciation story, see page 15.)


A pigeon

BUILDING A LANDMARK

The Lego set

Every year, millions of people visit the Sagrada Família, a cathedral in Barcelona, Spain, designed by Antoni Gaudí. Now Lego lovers can build a smaller version at home with a 12,060-piece set—the largest Lego has ever released. "Our goal was to [honor] Gaudí's vision with the utmost respect," Lego said.

A TIDY TRADITION

Japanese soccer fans picked up trash at a Texas stadium after their team played in the FIFA World Cup on June 14. It's a common practice in Japan, where people are taught to leave a place the way they found it. The blue trash bags also serve another purpose: Fans wave them during matches to cheer on their team.

A Japanese fan

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (2); THE POKÉMON COMPANY; NASA; COURTESY PUBLISHER; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4); LEGO; ON LEFT PAGE: NASA (2); AXIOM SPACE

AMAZING RESOURCE
The Sun hits the Earth with more energy in an hour than the amount of power all humans consume in a year.

A solar energy installation in Louisiana

Largest US wind farm

After nearly 20 years of planning, the largest US wind farm, located in New Mexico, is set to begin producing electricity in June. SunZia has more than 900 turbines (devices, shown above, that convert wind into energy) and will be able to power about 3 million homes in New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

Solar energy makes big gains in US

Two new reports have shown that solar energy is increasingly becoming a major source of power in the US. Solar is a renewable source that captures the Sun's energy and converts it into power that can be used to create electricity.

What were the reports?

According to data released by Ember, a global energy research institute, solar power supplied 12.8% of the nation's electricity, while coal supplied 12.2%, in May 2026. This was the first time in US history that solar power provided more of the nation's electricity than coal, a fossil fuel that releases harmful gases into the air. Unlike solar, which can be replenished without harming the environment, coal is a non-renewable energy source that must be mined from the Earth. A second report by the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and the analytics firm Wood Mackenzie found that solar installations accounted for 91% of the nation's new power production in the first few months of 2026.

Why is solar power on the rise?

Although natural gas provides the most power to US businesses and homes, people are increasingly turning to solar energy to get their electricity. For example, solar energy provided 17% more power in the US in May 2026 than it did in May 2025. Texas, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan are among the states attracting the most solar installations. Industry experts have predicted that solar could provide electricity to 100 million homes by 2034.

How did people react?

Proponents of renewable energy were encouraged by the reports. "Overtaking coal for the first month on record shows just how far solar has come," said Nicolas Fulghum of Ember. However, the US government has taken steps to slow the growth of solar energy. For example, it canceled a federal program to increase solar projects and allocated $700 million to upgrade coal power plants.

What will happen next?

Experts predicted that solar power could continue to increase in popularity because it's unaffected by world events like the war in Iran, which has caused dramatic price swings for many fossil fuels. Solar may be able to provide electricity at a more reliable cost compared to that of non-renewable fossil fuels.

WORD OF THE WEEK

JERSEY

In the US, a "jersey" is an athletic top, but in the UK it can be used to describe a sweater. For centuries, the Isle of Jersey in the UK was known for its wool trade and knitted wool sweaters. At first, the sweaters were made primarily for the island's sailors and fishermen. The popularity of the sweaters spread and they became known as "jerseys."

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

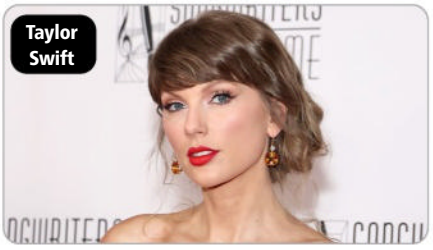
June 23, 1926

The first SAT exam is administered

On June 23, 1926, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), an exam that high school students take as part of applying to many colleges, was first administered. More than 8,000 students in about 353 locations were quizzed in math, reading, and other subjects. The test was based on an exam that US Army soldiers took during World War I (1914–1918). In 2025, more than 2 million students took the SAT.

Sunscreen ingredient approved

For the first time in nearly 30 years, the FDA (the US agency that monitors the safety of food and medicine) has approved a new sunscreen ingredient. Bemotrizinol is a chemical UV filter that blocks UVA and UVB rays, both of which have been found to increase skin cancer risk. Until now, most US sunscreens used avobenzone, an ingredient that protects primarily against UVB rays. Bemotrizinol has been used in European and Asian sunscreens for 20 years.



Songwriters receive recognition

On June 11, the Songwriters Hall of Fame inducted its 2026 class at an event in New York City. Taylor Swift, age 36, made history as the youngest woman ever to receive the honor. In her speech, she thanked her parents for their support as she pursued her dream. Other nominees included Kenny Loggins, Alanis Morissette, Gene Simmons, and Christopher Stewart.

Rare zebra is born at US zoo

The Los Angeles Zoo in California has announced the birth of a male Grevy's zebra, the world's rarest type of zebra. The species, native to Ethiopia and Kenya, is endangered, with fewer than 2,000 in the wild. The foal, who is not yet named, spent his first weeks bonding with his mother and will now be on public view. Like all zebras, he has a stripe pattern that's one of a kind, similar to a human fingerprint.

AP; GETTY IMAGES (4); L.A. ZOO; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); PUBLIC DOMAIN

WOW! The New York Knicks won 13 straight games in this year's playoffs, the second-longest winning streak in NBA playoff history.

New York Knicks are NBA champions

The 2026 NBA (National Basketball Association) championship title went to the New York Knicks on June 13 after they defeated the San Antonio Spurs, 94–90, in Game 5 of a dramatic NBA Finals series. It was the Knicks' first NBA championship since 1973 and their third overall.

The Knicks entered the playoffs as the third-ranked team in the NBA's Eastern Conference. They defeated the Atlanta Hawks, Philadelphia 76ers, and Cleveland Cavaliers to advance to the Finals. In the best-of-seven series against the Spurs, the Knicks won the first two games in San Antonio, Texas. The Spurs took Game 3 in New York City and got off to a huge advantage in Game 4 as well, leading by 29 points in the third quarter. But the Knicks pulled off a historic comeback to win that game by a score of 107–106.

During Game 5 in San Antonio, the Spurs were leading for much of the game. The Knicks surged ahead in the fourth quarter after team captain and guard Jalen Brunson hit three free throws. Brunson scored 45 points in the game, including 13 in the fourth quarter, and was named the NBA Finals' Most Valuable Player (MVP). Brunson's father, Rick, is an assistant coach for the Knicks and a former Knicks player.

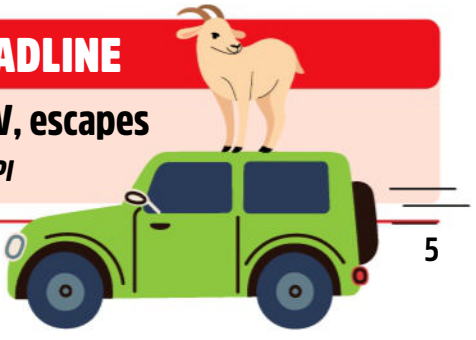
The victory set off celebrations throughout New York City, where crowds of people had gathered to watch the game, including outside Madison Square Garden, the Knicks' home arena, and in Times Square. People chanted "Let's go Knicks" in the streets. The Empire State Building and other skyscrapers were lit up in orange and blue, the team's colors.

A view of New York City after the Knicks won

On June 18, New York City will host a ticker tape parade for the Knicks. "Ticker tape" refers to the scraps of paper attendees use as confetti. The city held its first ticker tape parade in 1886 for the dedication of the Statue of Liberty, and this will be the first time the Knicks are honored at one.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Goat jumps onto roof of SUV, escapes sheriff's deputies in Ohio" *UPI*



Around the world

A beaver statue representing Norway

Toronto, Canada
Beaver scavenger hunt begins

A scavenger hunt to find beaver statues is taking place in Toronto's Old Town neighborhood. Created to celebrate the 2026 FIFA World Cup matches in Canada and encourage visitors to explore the city, the Great Beaver Quest features 51 sculptures of beavers, a national symbol of the host country. Each bucktoothed figure is decorated to represent one of the nations participating in the global soccer tournament.

A Jamaican beach

Saint Ann, Jamaica
Fight for beach access

This month, five court cases will begin in Jamaica as local activists try to keep some of the island's beaches available to the public. Over decades, hotel chains and other companies have closed off most of the coastline, restricting the beaches to private use by owners, hotel guests, or paying tourists. Advocates say it's unfair to limit shore access for residents who rely on the ocean for work and pleasure.

The candidates

Peru
Close race in presidential election

Peru's presidential election on June 7 was so close that the winner was still unclear when *The Week Junior* went to press on June 17. After more than 99% of the votes had been counted, right-wing candidate Keiko Fujimori was narrowly ahead of her left-wing opponent, Roberto Sánchez. Authorities said it could take weeks to recount ballots and announce the final result.

United Kingdom
Social media ban announced

On June 15, the UK government announced that it plans to ban children under age 16 from using social media. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the goal is to protect children from harmful content and excessive screen time. The ban will apply to several platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube, and is expected to take effect in 2027.

Bujumbura, Burundi
Cultural festival is held

Drumbeats filled Bujumbura during the Umukozo Festival. The annual event brings together artists and performers from across Burundi to preserve cultural traditions. Crowds gathered to see traditional and contemporary dances as well as the first-ever Drum Carnival in the streets of the major city. Drummers gave synchronized performances using royal drums, iconic instruments with a long history in the country.

Drummers paraded through the streets.

REUTERS; AP; GETTY IMAGES (6); STEVEN PEARCE; ADOBE STOCK

Around the world

Flags at the G7 summit

Evian-les-Bains, France
Meeting of world leaders

Some of the world's top leaders met at the G7 summit from June 15–17. Since 1976, the heads of seven nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US) have convened at the meeting to discuss economic challenges. This year's summit focused on artificial intelligence, the wars in Iran and Ukraine, and global trade.

One of the protests

Tirana, Albania
Calls for government to step down

Thousands of demonstrators have gathered in Albania's capital, demanding that Prime Minister Edi Rama and his government resign. The protests were sparked after authorities approved a $4 billion project to build a luxury resort on a protected nature reserve where sea turtles and flamingos live. As outrage has spread, people are calling for more changes, including the reversal of new laws that could harm the environment.

Russia
Restrictions on Roblox lifted

Russia has lifted its ban on the gaming platform Roblox. The popular platform is owned by a US-based company, and about 40% of its users worldwide are children under age 13. In December, the government blocked Roblox, saying it was unsafe for children and was spreading "undesirable" messages. About 63,000 kids and parents wrote letters to complain about the ban, and officials now say the company has added safety measures.

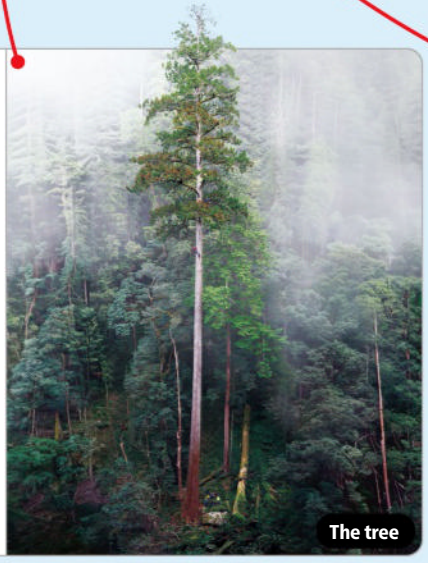
Cooladdi

Cooladdi, Australia
Tiny town for sale

An Australian town is for sale for about $283,000, which is less than the average price of a home in the US. With two residents and one building, Cooladdi is considered Australia's smallest town. The new owner will become the unofficial mayor and will also be responsible for running the Fox Trap Roadhouse, which serves as the town's restaurant, motel, shop, and post office.

Taiwan
Tallest tree found

Researchers have identified East Asia's tallest tree in a valley in Taiwan. The 276-foot-tall fir tree, which they named "Heaven Sword of the Da'an River," is about 1,000 years old. The team began measuring tall trees by hand after discovering that scanning technology was not always accurate. To get to this tree, they had to swim 12 miles up a river and hike for two days. Then they climbed the tree and dropped a tape measure from the top to record its height.


The tree

Are sports jerseys too expensive?

Fans are spending big bucks to show off their loyalty to teams and players.

What you need to know

- **June is a big month for sports, with the NBA Finals, NHL Stanley Cup, and FIFA World Cup all taking place and the MLB regular season in swing.**
- **Fans often wear jerseys to support their favorite players and teams. Companies such as Nike, Adidas, Puma, and Fanatics produce team jerseys and replica shirts to sell.**
- **Globally, sales for official sports merchandise hit nearly $38 billion last year. That includes items like shirts, caps, collectibles, and toys.**

A HOME RUN SALE
In 2024, a jersey belonging to baseball legend Babe Ruth sold at auction for a record-setting $24.1 million.

Soccer fans around the world are tuning in for weeks of FIFA World Cup action, and with 48 teams competing, there are many different jerseys to choose from. Fans of the US Men's National Team can expect to pay up to $235 for an official jersey, but if you want a special host city one, it'll cost you $380. Meanwhile, jerseys for the New York Knicks and San Antonio Spurs, which played in the NBA Finals, are $125 for adults and $60 for kids. And long-sleeve shirts for the Buffalo Sabres hockey team cost up to $250. Some fans say it's worth every penny to show off their team pride, but others are crying foul. What do you think? Are sports jerseys too expensive?

Yes—sports are for everyone

Sports are about community and bonding. They bring people together and stir up hometown pride, and everyone—not just wealthy fans—should be able to show their love for their team without breaking the bank. Ticket prices are already so high, and food and drinks at the stadium add up fast. Even paying for streaming services to watch games at home is expensive! It's not fair to make people pay crazy prices for jerseys too. And when official jerseys are too costly, people might buy fake ones instead because they're cheaper. The quality of those goods is usually poor, and they're taking money away from the team and players.

No—it's worth the money

You can't put a price on team pride! And there's no better way to show your support and promote your favorite team or player than to wear a jersey out in the world. Plus, official replica jerseys that look like the team's jerseys cost money to make. They have to be designed and produced according to team standards. That's especially true when they're for special events, like the World Cup or NBA Finals. So of course they're going to be expensive. Once you've bought a jersey, though, it's a keepsake for a lifetime that can be worn again and again and can also be passed down within families. That's worth it!

YES Three reasons sports jerseys are too expensive

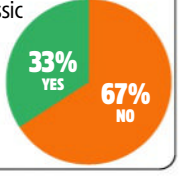
1. **Sports are meant to bring people together, not divide them based on whether a fan can afford a jersey or not.**
2. **It's already super expensive to be a sports fan, and charging crazy prices for jerseys on top of that is unfair.**
3. **If people feel official jerseys are too pricey, they might buy fake ones instead.**

NO Three reasons sports jerseys are not too expensive

1. **It's worth every penny to be able to show your team pride out in the world.**
2. **Official jerseys are expensive to make, especially when they're for special events. So the cost is understandable.**
3. **Jerseys are special keepsakes that you can wear over and over and even pass on to another fan in your family.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if we should stop remaking movies. Most of you like seeing a new take on a classic film: 67% of you said no, while 33% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think sports jerseys are too expensive or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

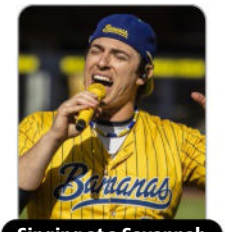
The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Taking the mound

Banana Ball, a fast-paced version of baseball that mixes athletics with music and comedy, is played by teams such as the Savannah Bananas. Broadway star and former college baseball player Derek Klena, who joined the Bananas this season as a full-time pitcher, spoke to *The Week Junior* about his journey from the stage to the field.

When did you begin performing?
Growing up in Southern California, I loved Disney musicals and began taking song and dance classes at age 5. I performed in shows throughout my childhood.


Singing at a Savannah Bananas game

Did you also play baseball at a young age?
I played many sports growing up but continued baseball into high school and became our team's pitcher. Often, I'd go straight from practice to theater rehearsals.

How did you pursue both?
My dream school, the University of California, Los Angeles, accepted me into its theater program. I played baseball my freshman year before focusing on performing full-time.

How did you make it to Broadway?
A Broadway composer saw a video of me through a singing competition and got me in the door. I left college junior year and eventually debuted on Broadway as Fiyero in *Wicked* in 2013.

What do you enjoy most about Banana Ball?
It's renewed my love for baseball and brings both of my passions together in one place. I especially love doing the *Phantom of the Opera* musical number on my way to the pitching mound.

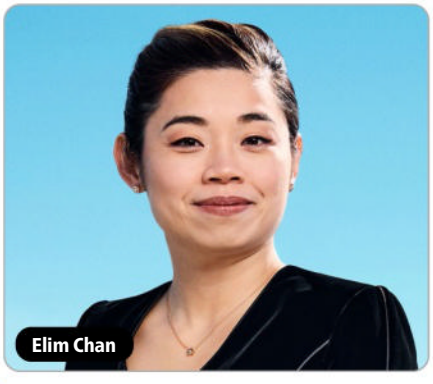
Best advice for young people?
Never sell yourself short, seize every opportunity that comes your way, and be yourself—everything else is up to chance.

Derek Klena

STAGE STAR
Derek Klena earned a Tony nomination in 2020 for his lead role in the hit Broadway musical *Jagged Little Pill*.

A music milestone

World-renowned conductor Elim Chan will be the next music director of the San Francisco Symphony, becoming the first woman to lead the orchestra in its 115-year history and the third woman ever to lead a major US orchestra. Chan, who will assume the role in 2027, is from Hong Kong, previously led the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra in Belgium, and has conducted prestigious ensembles worldwide. "The musicians have this wonderful drive to do something new," she said of her new role. "I am hungry too."


Elim Chan

Luke Morrison

Preserving the past

Luke Morrison, a 15-year-old from Vermont, manages a free military museum on his family's goat farm to preserve US veterans' stories. Morrison, who is one the nation's youngest military museum operators, converted a family member's camper into Luke's Military Museum after conducting hundreds of interviews with former service members and collecting their military artifacts. Items on display include Marine pins from World War II (1939–1945), airmen boots from the Vietnam War (1954–1975), and uniforms from the Iraq War (2003–2011).

OVERHEARD

"I have so much love and compassion—for both the younger version of myself and all of these characters."
Mindy Kaling, an Emmy-nominated comedic actress, writer, and producer, on the many roles she has played on screen

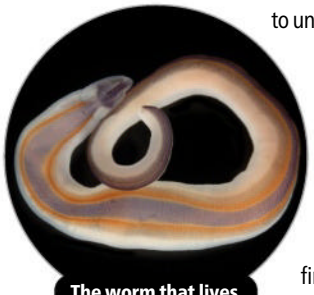
GETTY IMAGES (3); CODY PICKENS; COURTESY OF LUKE MORRISON

The "death ball" sponge

Ocean census reveals new species

Scientists have discovered 1,121 previously unknown marine species in one year, a huge leap forward in understanding life in Earth's oceans. The discoveries were made during the Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census, which involved more than 1,400 scientists exploring some of the most remote and least studied parts of the ocean. There were 13 expeditions, sometimes diving to depths of more than 21,500 feet.

Among the creatures were a new species of shrimp living in the Mediterranean Sea, a carnivorous (meat-eating) sponge nicknamed the "death ball," and a spooky-looking deep-sea "ghost shark" chimaera (an animal related to sharks and rays).

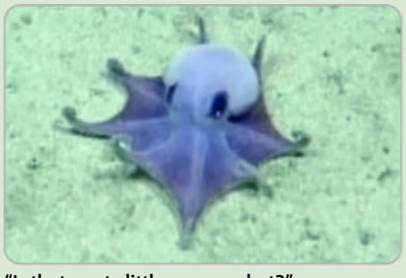

The worm that lives in a glass sponge

Researchers also found a species of tiny worm that lives inside a "glass" sponge. The marine worms have bright-colored stripes, which may warn predators that they can be toxic. Some of these worms also glow inside the see-through sponges. "I just love the idea that there's these crystalline glass castles of sponges, and they're probably twinkling at each other," Michelle Taylor, the head of science at the Ocean Census Alliance, told *Scientific American* magazine.

The number of species found over the past year is 54% higher than the previous year. Experts say the rate at which they were found matters because many species go extinct before they are discovered. Taylor said, "With many species at risk of disappearing before they are even documented, we are in a race against time to understand and protect ocean life."

Part of the problem is that a creature must be studied before it can be added to scientific records as a new species. Formally identifying a new species takes an average of 13.5 years after researchers first find and collect it. To help speed up the process, the Ocean Census Alliance has created a digital platform called NOVA where a species can be logged as "discovered" within days, even before scientists know everything about it. "This year, Ocean Census has shown what is possible," Mitsuyuki Unno, the head of the Nippon Foundation, told *Oceanographic Magazine*. "This team is revealing the extraordinary richness of ocean life."

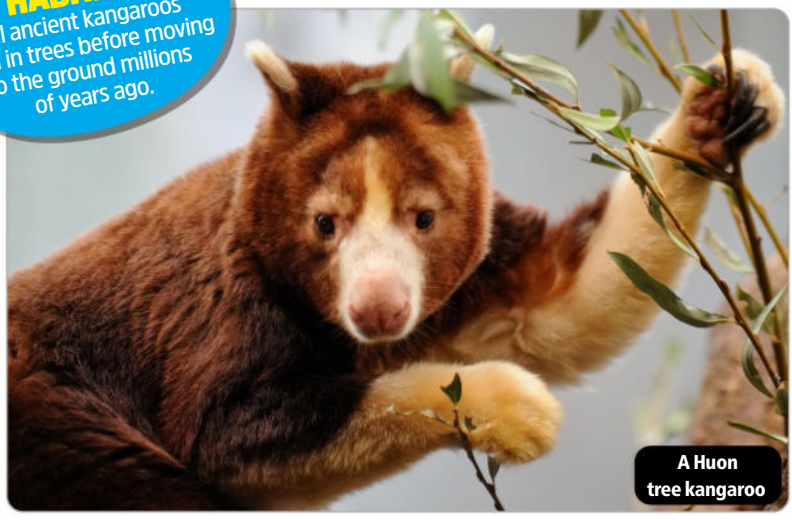
Tiny blue octopus discovered



"Is that a cute little guy, or what?" a crew member of the E/V Nautilus research ship said upon seeing a surprisingly small octopus in the deep sea near Ecuador's Galápagos Islands. After studying the creature, experts recently announced that it is a new species, Microeledone galapagensis.

About the size of a golf ball, M. galapagensis is the tiniest member of its family. Experts describe it as having large eyes and "stubby little arms" with only one row of suckers. Its body is light blue on top and deep purple underneath. Scientists think this highly unusual color pattern shields the light from its glowing prey as it eats, protecting the little octopus from being seen by predators.

HOPPING HABITATS
All ancient kangaroos lived in trees before moving to the ground millions of years ago.



A Huon tree kangaroo

Crunch time for tree kangaroos

Munching on veggies became a competitive sport on World Tree Kangaroo Day, as zoos around the world competed in the International Tree Kangaroo Crunch-a-Thon. The social media event highlighted a little-known type of marsupial.

Tree kangaroos have longer arms and tails than ground-dwelling kangaroos. Their sharp claws and padded feet curve around branches to help them climb, and they can hop nearly 30 feet from tree to tree. There are 14 known species of tree kangaroos, and about half of these are endangered.

The Crunch-a-Thon, organized by a program called AZA SAFE, raised awareness about these rare kangaroos by seeking out the loudest, cutest chomper. Over five days, 25 zoos and wildlife organizations shared videos of their residents enjoying crunchy snacks like celery, kale, and sweet potatoes.

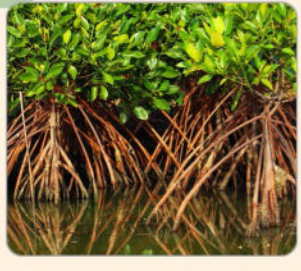
The winner of the public vote was Som, a 6-year-old female Huon tree kangaroo at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado. The event "successfully spotlighted the vital need for tree kangaroo conservation," AZA SAFE said. "The cuteness truly broke the internet!"

Animal of the week: Bat-eared fox

San Diego Zoo in California announced the birth of three bat-eared fox kits, which have ventured outside their den and will learn to find food. Native to south and east Africa, these foxes are the only members of the dog family that eat mainly insects.

- **LIFESPAN:** About 6 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Savannahs and scrublands
- **SIZE:** 18 to 26 inches with a 9- to 13-inch tail
- **DIET:** Almost anything but mostly termites
- **FUN FACT:** Their huge ears provide excellent hearing and help their body release heat.

Good week / Bad week



Mangrove trees
Antoine Moses, a Canadian environmentalist, set a world record for the most mangrove trees planted by an individual in 24 hours. He planted 47,460 mangrove saplings in Mombasa, Kenya, helping to restore a coastal ecosystem.

Palisade peaches
Peach trees in Palisade, Colorado, have been infected by a fungal disease, causing the loss of many peaches and reducing trees' lives from 20 to 10 years. Scientists are helping farmers fight the disease as they work to find a solution.

ASK AN EXPERT: "Why do male lions have manes?" Sonia, 10, New Jersey

Katie Kuhn
Assistant curator of large mammals, Milwaukee County Zoo

Most male lions have manes that grow larger and darker as they age. They developed this feature to attract females and intimidate other males. However, lions' environment and health are believed to affect manes. Male lions in dry scrub regions of Tsavo, Kenya, have little to no mane.

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Milwaukee County Zoo at milwaukeezoo.org.

GETTY IMAGES (4); ON LEFT PAGE: ROV/SUBASTIAN SCHMIDT/OCEAN_INSTITUTE; THE NIPPON FOUNDATION/NEKTON-OCEAN CENSUS/GUSTAV PAULAY ; CHARLES DARWIN FOUNDATION

She created beloved

Author and illustrator Beatrix Potter was inspired by the natural world.

Beatrix Potter brought *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and other charming tales featuring animals to life, leaving a legacy for generations.

At age 9

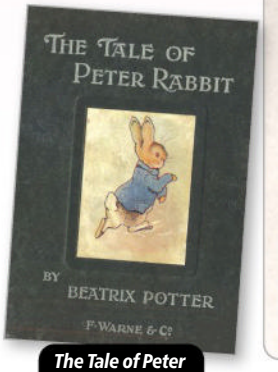
Her early years

Potter was born Helen Beatrix Potter in London, England, in 1866 and was educated at home by a governess. Her family spent holidays in the countryside, especially in Scotland and England's Lake District, where she explored forests, fields, and lakes while observing animals and plants. She and her brother kept many pets, including rabbits, mice, and lizards. She began drawing plants and wildlife at a young age, filling sketchbooks with detailed illustrations and imaginative watercolor paintings. She later studied mycology (the study of fungi) and produced more than 250 realistic illustrations of mushrooms, which are still used in scientific research and identification today.

MAKING HISTORY
In 1903, Peter Rabbit became the first fictional character to be made into a patented stuffed toy.

"I have just made stories to please myself, because I never grew up," wrote Beatrix Potter, shown with some of her famous literary creations.

A literary treasure



The Tale of Peter Rabbit, 1902

In 1893, Potter wrote a letter to a sick child named Noel Moore, the son of her former governess, as he recovered from an illness. The letter told the adventurous story of four rabbits. The central character, Peter, was inspired by Potter's real-life pet rabbit, Peter Piper. A few years later, Potter turned the letter into a manuscript for *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. After facing rejections from several publishers, she used her own money to print a small number of copies in 1901. They sold quickly, and their success led a British publishing company to release a commercial edition in 1902, which became a bestseller. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* has since sold more than 45 million copies and been translated into nearly 40 languages.

Four classic characters

Peter Rabbit

The adventurous Peter Rabbit frequently gets into trouble sneaking into Mr. McGregor's garden. Peter escapes, until the next time he finds mischief.

Jemima Puddle-Duck

Dressed in a bonnet and shawl, Jemima is a kind, naive duck who dreams of raising a family of ducklings. The inspiration for this character was a real duck that lived at Beatrix Potter's Hill Top Farm.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ALAMY (4); WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (5); SOTHEBY'S

stories about animals

SECRET SYMBOLS
Beatrix Potter invented her own alphabet as a teen to write in code in her private journals to prevent snooping.

Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle

A cheerful hedgehog known for her caring nature, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle runs a laundry service for the animals in Potter's stories. She often repairs Peter Rabbit's clothes after his misadventures.

Squirrel Nutkin

This mischievous squirrel likes to annoy an elderly owl named Old Brown with riddles while gathering winter nuts. Nutkin is based on Potter's observations of red squirrels living around the Lake District.

Continued success

An early Peter Rabbit doll

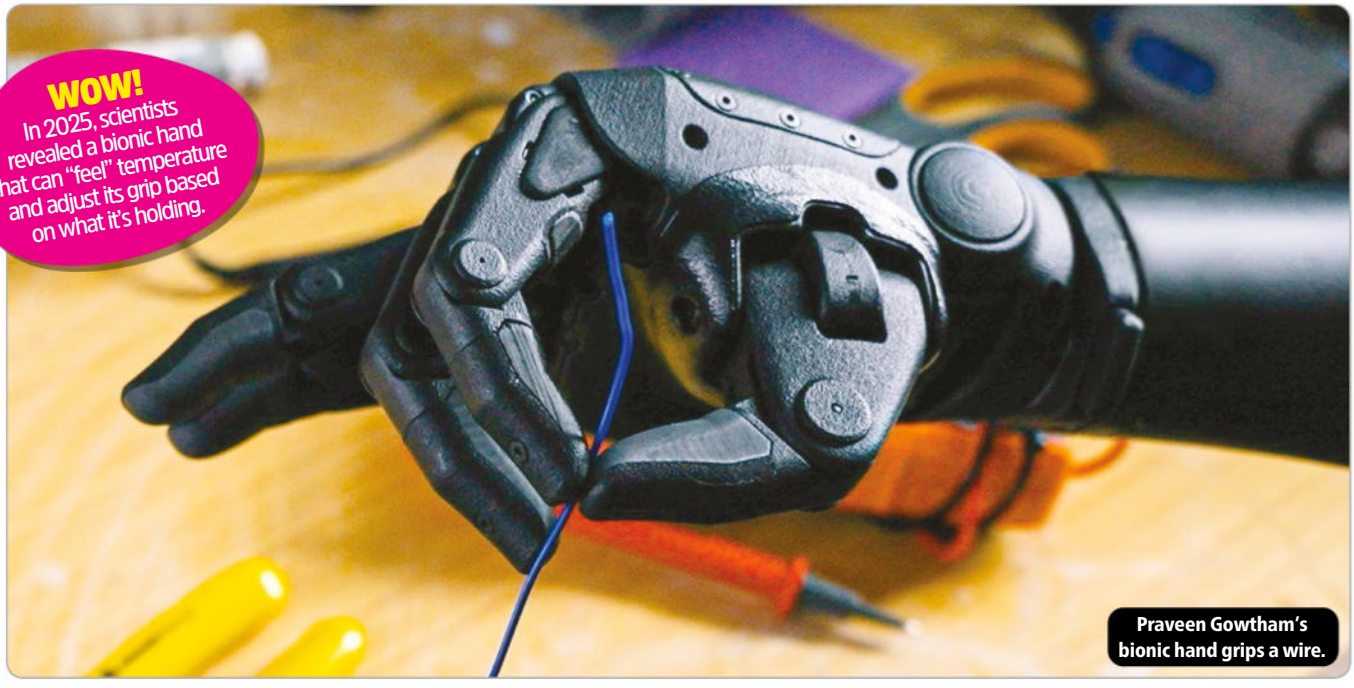
Potter went on to write and illustrate a total of 23 Peter Rabbit books from 1901 to 1913. Brought to life by her detailed artwork, the collection features a mix of standalone stories and overlapping characters, many of whom were based on real animals she observed or kept as pets. (See "A few classic characters" below.) Some of her later books include *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny* (1904), a sequel to Peter Rabbit; *The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle* (1905); and *The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck* (1908). Potter also pioneered character merchandising, becoming one of the first children's authors to license products like Peter Rabbit dolls, board games, and tea sets.

The English Lake District

Conservation legacy

In 1905, Potter used her earnings from the *Peter Rabbit* books and merchandise to buy Hill Top Farm in the Lake District (also known as Lakeland). She spent the rest of her life in the area, writing stories, working to preserve the local landscape, and becoming an expert in raising Herdwick sheep, a breed native to the region. When Potter died in 1943, she left about 4,000 acres of land and 15 farms to the National Trust, a UK heritage and nature conservation organization. At the time, it was the greatest Lakeland gift the National Trust had ever received, and it helped to protect much of the landscape that later became Lake District National Park. Potter also left behind her Hill Top Farm residence, which has been preserved with its original furnishings and artwork. She also requested that her Herdwick sheep remain on the land to help preserve the breed.

WOW! In 2025, scientists revealed a bionic hand that can "feel" temperature and adjust its grip based on what it's holding.



Praveen Gowtham's bionic hand grips a wire.

Full bionic arm is a world first

A man from New York is the first person in the world to receive a full-length, 3D-printed bionic arm. Bionic means a human-made object or system that is inspired by biological (natural) processes. The arm was made by Open Bionics, a company based in the UK.

Praveen Gowtham, a 43-year-old scientist, had his right arm amputated (removed) when he was 8 days old after a medical issue affected the blood supply in his arm. After spending nearly all his life with one arm, Gowtham started searching for devices that could make his daily life easier. He contacted Open Bionics, but the company was still working on the technology for its full-length bionic arm, and he had to wait a year before it could be fitted for him.

Praveen Gowtham drinking coffee and walking his dog

The lightweight bionic limb, called the Hero FLEX, is designed for above-the-elbow amputees (people who have had their arm removed above the elbow). 3D printing allows it to be made to fit each user's body. The arm connects to the muscles in the person's shoulder so it can respond to their movements and has different attachments for hobbies or chores, like gardening. Gowtham said one of the most impressive things about the arm was how quickly it responds when he wants to move it.

Within an hour of the new arm being attached, Gowtham was trying out tasks he had never been able to manage. He walked his dog while holding a cup of coffee at the same time, gripped tools and thin wires at his workbench, and opened an aluminum drink can.

"It's the small day-to-day things," Gowtham said. "Being able to lift a box off a shelf, open a door without having to put everything down on the floor first...even giving my dog a treat is easier. And because the whole solution is lightweight, I don't feel the strain on my shoulder."

Most of the artificial limbs Open Bionics makes are for people who are missing arms below the elbow. Samantha Payne, a company founder (see box at right), said it's exciting to make the new technology available to more people. "We're thrilled Praveen is the first person to take one home," she said.

Experts hope that advances like 3D printing can help make bionic limbs more affordable and available to amputees around the world.

Feeling like a superhero

Open Bionics was started in 2014 by Joel Gibbard and Samantha Payne after Gibbard became fascinated by robotic hands as a teenager. The company uses 3D printing to create futuristic-looking artificial arms for adults and children. Its products include a bionic hand that has a touch-screen fingertip so the wearer can use digital devices like smartphones, and the Hero Arm, designed for people missing their arm below the elbow.

In 2024, 5-year-old Jordan Marotta (shown above) became the youngest person ever to be fitted with a Hero Arm, which Open Bionics designed to look like the arm of the high-tech Marvel character Iron Man. Marotta, who is from New York, said his new arm made him "feel like a superhero."

The long history of people and pigeons

Many people think of pigeons as pesky city birds, but the animals share a long, rich history with humans. A recent study found that this relationship goes back about 1,000 years longer than scientists previously believed.

Researchers analyzed 157 pigeon bones found at the site of an ancient city in Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean Sea. The bones dated to between 1650 and 1150 BCE. By studying chemicals in the bones, the scientists determined that the birds ate grains and vegetables but little meat. That diet overlapped with what people in the city ate at the time.

The findings suggested that pigeons were getting their food from humans or living closely alongside them and eating scraps they left behind. There were also signs that the pigeons had been raised by people and cooked and eaten in ritual feasts.

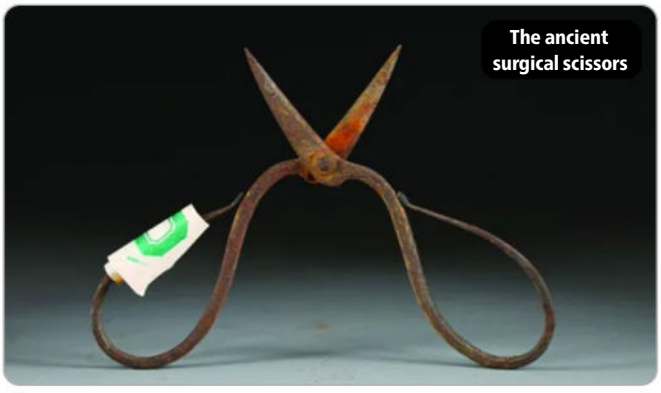
Before this, the oldest known evidence for the domestication of pigeons was from Greece, between 323 and 265 BCE. For centuries, people have bred pigeons for use in agriculture, to carry messages tied to their legs, and as pets. Yet over time, the birds became less useful and more of an annoyance.

Anderson Carter, who led the study, hopes people's appreciation of pigeons will increase. "We've shaped their whole species, and they've shaped many of our stories and histories," she said. "We do owe them at least some respect."

DIVINE BIRDS

In Greek mythology, Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty, was fond of pigeons and doves and was often shown holding them.

People have bred and raised pigeons for many purposes.



The ancient surgical scissors

World's oldest anesthetic found

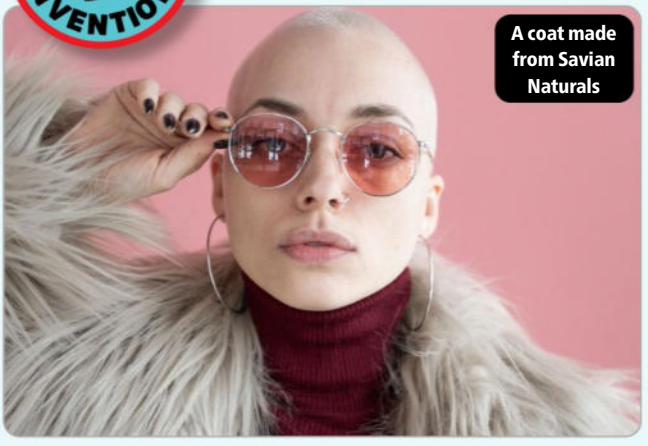
Surgical tools found in a doctor's tomb in China revealed that anesthetics (medicine applied to numb an area) were used for minor surgeries 600 years ago. It's the oldest evidence of a numbing agent being used in a procedure.

Experts found the iron scissors and tweezers in a province that had a thriving medical center during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644). They used non-invasive methods like powerful x-rays and lasers to detect traces of a substance on the tools that came from aconitum plants. These plants are toxic but would have numbed the patient's skin.

To make the substance safe for use on patients, however, doctors first would have had to reduce the toxicity of the plants. They likely did this by treating the plants with an acidic material like vinegar—a process that would have required skill and precision so the doctors didn't poison themselves.

AMAZING INVENTION

Fake fur that is made from plants



A coat made from Savian Naturals

Fur clothing is no longer popular because of the animal welfare issues and environmental costs associated with it. But alternative fake furs are made from plastic, which is harmful to the environment.

Now a company called BioFluff is addressing both issues by making fur entirely out of plants. The material, Savian Naturals, is fluffy, soft, and shiny like real fur and comes in many patterns and colors. Its creators said it breaks down naturally within a few years and has a 75% lower environmental impact than other fake furs.

GETTY IMAGES; LING ET AL., ANTIQUITY; COURTESY BIOFLUFF; ON LEFT PAGE: OPEN BIONICS (2); ASHLEY MAROTTA

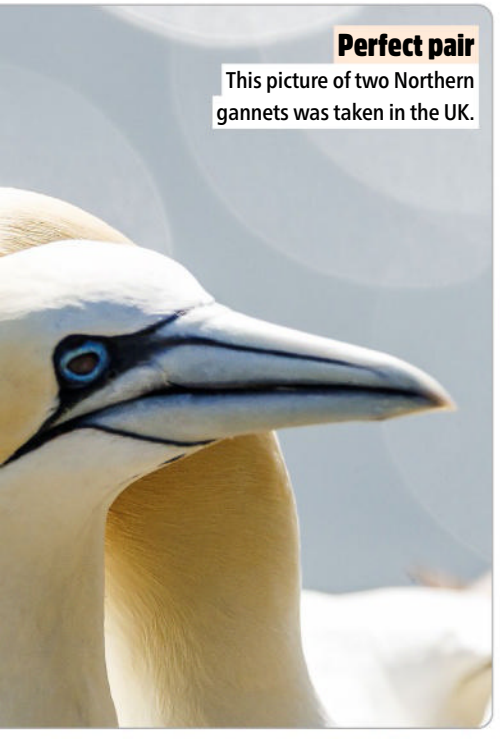
Photos of the week

Looking up
In Spain, the ceiling of a cathedral designed by famous architect Antoni Gaudí is seen from below.

Winging it
In India, a tawny coster butterfly lands on a blooming jasmine plant.

GETTY IMAGES (6)

Photos of the week



Perfect pair
This picture of two Northern gannets was taken in the UK.

Moment of meaning
Muslims gather together in prayer in Indonesia.

That's a wrap
A cave-like inflatable art installation covers a bridge in Paris, France.

Amazing attire
A performer in Australia wears a costume inspired by the Great Barrier Reef.

SCORING STATISTIC
In their first World Cup match this year, the US scored more goals than they did during the entire 2022 World Cup.

Folarin Balogun (center) and members of the US Men's National Team

Exciting start to the World Cup

Soccer's biggest event is officially underway. The 2026 FIFA World Cup began on June 11, and matches are now being played by 48 men's teams in locations across the US, Mexico, and Canada.

The teams in the World Cup are split into 12 groups of four. In the first stage, teams within each group compete against each other in hopes of advancing to the Round of 32.

Argentina, the defending World Cup champions, entered ranked as the number one team. In 2022, the last time the men's World Cup was held, they defeated France in the final. France is expected to be a top contender again, along with teams that include Spain, Portugal, Brazil, and England. Some of the world's biggest soccer stars are competing for their home countries, such as Lionel Messi (Argentina), Kylian Mbappé (France), Harry Kane (England), and Lamine Yamal (Spain).

Gio Reyna

Mexico received the honor of playing in and hosting the opening match at Mexico City Stadium on June 11. In front of an enthusiastic home crowd, they defeated South Africa, 2–0. The next day, the USMNT (US Men's National Team) got off to an impressive start in their opening match against Paraguay. In front of more than 70,000 fans in Los Angeles, California, the US won, 4–1. It was the most goals in a match for a US men's team in the history of the World Cup, which dates back to 1930. The US went up 1–0 after an own goal by a player from Paraguay, then US forward Folarin Balogun scored twice before halftime. He is now the first USMNT player to score two goals in a World Cup match.

In the second half, just before the final whistle, the US made 26 consecutive passes before midfielder Gio Reyna scored the fourth goal. The US team's Christian Pulisic, Malik Tillman, and Alex Freeman all had assists during the game.

Among the other opening weekend highlights was a face-off between Brazil and Morocco, two of the top teams, at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on June 13. It ended in a 1–1 draw. The following day, a thrilling match between Japan and the Netherlands ended in a 2–2 draw after a late game-tying goal by Japan. The same day, Ivory Coast, which has not played in a World Cup since 2014, upset Ecuador, 1–0. Amad Diallo scored the winning goal in the final minutes of play, ending Ecuador's 19-game unbeaten streak.

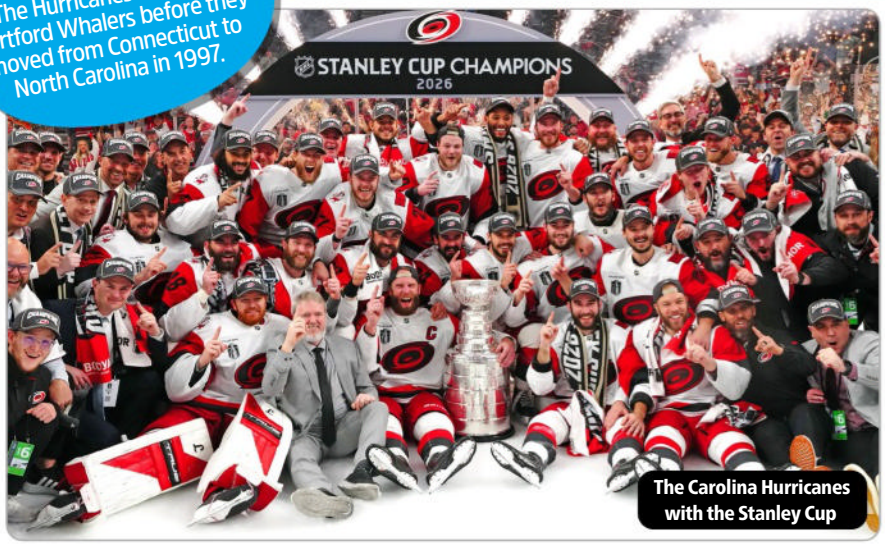
Flashback to 1994

This is the second men's World Cup to be held in the US. During the first one in 1994, the opening ceremony (above) took place at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois. It was the second time since 1950 that the USMNT participated in the tournament.

In the Group Stage, the US had a shocking 2–1 win over Colombia, one of the favorites, plus a loss and a tie. The team then advanced to the Round of 16, where they lost to the eventual champions, Brazil, 1–0.

The 1994 World Cup was a huge success. An average of nearly 69,000 people attended each match, and more than 3.5 million people attended in total—a World Cup record.

HOCKEY HISTORY
The Hurricanes were the Hartford Whalers before they moved from Connecticut to North Carolina in 1997.



The Carolina Hurricanes with the Stanley Cup

Hurricanes win Stanley Cup

For the first time since the 2005–2006 season, the Carolina Hurricanes are the NHL (National Hockey League) champions. In Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final, which was played at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 14, the Hurricanes defeated the Vegas Golden Knights, 3–0, to win the best-of-seven series and the league's championship trophy.

The Hurricanes entered the Stanley Cup playoffs as one of the NHL's best teams. They finished the regular season in first place in the Eastern Conference's Metropolitan Division and had more points (earned by wins and overtime or shootout losses) than any other team in their conference.

Jordan Staal

The Golden Knights, meanwhile, finished at the top of the Pacific Division in the Western Conference. They reached the Stanley Cup Final after a big win in the conference finals, where they swept the Colorado Avalanche, the NHL's overall top team during the regular season.

The Stanley Cup Final began on June 2, and the first three games were all decided by one goal. In Game 1, which was played at Carolina's home stadium, the Lenovo Center in Raleigh, North Carolina, the score was tied, 4–4, late in the final period, but the Golden Knights managed to score one last goal for the win.

Game 2 was another exhilarating contest. The Golden Knights grabbed an early lead, but Carolina fought back. In the third period, they scored three goals and went up, 3–2, after a power-play goal by captain Jordan Staal, but the Golden Knights tied it up with under two minutes to play. The game went to overtime, where the Hurricanes got their first victory of the series thanks to a goal by Seth Jarvis.

Games 3 and 4 were played in Las Vegas, where the thrills continued. In Game 3, Vegas led, 4–0, entering the third period. Carolina then scored four times in less than 12 minutes to tie the game. It extended into double overtime, and the Golden Knights eventually won, 5–4.

Carolina took Game 4 by a score of 5–3 and racked up a 4–2 win at home in Game 5, giving the team their first lead in the series. Game 6 was a must-win for Vegas, but the night belonged to Carolina's defense. Their goaltender Brandon Bussi, a rookie and the backup player for that position, stopped all 22 shots he faced. Taylor Hall, Jackson Blake, and Nikolaj Ehlers of the Hurricanes scored their team's goals. The victory was an extra-special moment for the team's head coach, Rod Brind'Amour, who was a Hurricanes player when they won the Stanley Cup in 2006.

Following the game, Staal was awarded the Conn Smythe Trophy for being the most valuable player of the Stanley Cup playoffs. He scored six goals during the Final and provided leadership throughout Carolina's championship run. At age 37, he is the oldest player in NHL history to win the award.

MORE BIG MOMENTS

Breanna Stewart

BASKETBALL

On June 14, the New York Liberty defeated the Washington Mystics, 86–64, to win their seventh straight game. The matchup was part of the Commissioner's Cup, an in-season tournament, and the Liberty will now represent the Eastern Conference in the final. Breanna Stewart had 14 points, 12 rebounds, and 7 blocks for the Liberty.

Jacob Misiorowski

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Jacob Misiorowski had a historic night on the mound on June 12. He threw for the entire nine innings during a 6–0 win over the Philadelphia Phillies. In 95 pitches, he struck out 15 batters and allowed one base runner. One of Misiorowski's pitches hit 104.5 miles per hour, a record for a starter.

The Louisville Kings

FOOTBALL

In the United Bowl, the UFL (United Football League) championship game on June 13, the Louisville Kings, a new team this season, beat last season's champions, the DC Defenders, 27–20. Kings running back Ian Wheeler ran for 81 yards and one touchdown and was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

DID YOU KNOW?
The Field Museum was founded in 1893 and includes a collection of more than 40 million specimens and artifacts.

A Tyrantrum "fossil" in the *Pokémon Fossil Museum*

Pokémon fossils are on display

An exhibit mixes the fictional world of Pokémon with the prehistoric world of dinosaurs.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the release of the first Pokémon video games. The franchise, which was created in Japan, is set in a world filled with colorful Pokémon (short for pocket monsters), including the famous Pikachu. Now a famous exhibition that presents "fossils" of the creatures alongside fossils of real dinosaurs has made its North American debut at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois. The *Pokémon Fossil Museum* is open through April 11, 2027.

The exhibition was developed by the National Museum of Nature and Science in Tokyo, Japan, and The Pokémon Company. It first opened in 2021 and traveled to 15 museums across Japan before ending its run in April. The Field Museum is using original elements and added dinosaur fossils from its own collection.

In the show, color-coded displays separate science from fantasy. Blue ones focus on Pokémon, while red ones showcase real fossils and scientific research. In the same way that paleontologists compare fossils to learn about extinct animals, visitors are encouraged to look for similarities between Pokémon and dinosaurs by looking at their body shapes, adaptations, and behaviors.

Pikachu

Among the Pokémon fossils on display are a Tyrantrum, which is similar to a Tyrannosaurus rex. It can be found near SUE, the most complete T. rex fossil ever discovered. Archeops, a winged Pokémon, appears alongside a fossil of the rare Chicago Archaeopteryx, a species that scientists use to understand how birds evolved. Omanyte, an imaginary creature with tentacles and a shell, is paired with real fossils of ammonites, which lived in oceans millions of years ago.

To add to the fun, in one area, visitors can use ultraviolet flashlights to find "camouflaged" creatures. In the final section of the show, they can crack open spherical rocks known as concretions to find concealed fossils.

Anastasia DeMaio, the Field Museum's exhibition developer, told *The Week Junior* that the *Pokémon Fossil Museum* is designed to connect the fun and adventure of Pokémon exploration with scientific discovery. "The goal is to draw those parallels and make science feel less scary and distant," she said, adding that she hopes the exhibit inspires visitors to pursue scientific interests. "If you love feelings of adventure and discovery, and doing research on Pokémon, you can apply that to the natural world."

30th anniversary festivities

Pokémon's 30th anniversary this year is being celebrated with many special events. Recently, a Pokémon GO Fest, where more than 100,000 participants played the augmented reality game Pokémon GO, was held in Chicago. A free Global Fest will take place on July 11–12.

Another event this summer is Comic-Con International in San Diego, California, from July 23–26. There, Pokémon fans can visit a "What's Your Favorite?" booth to collect stickers and honor their most loved creature.

Fans of Pokémon trading cards can look forward to the release of a 30th Celebration set, including cards and accessories inspired by Pokémon history, on September 16. Sets usually come out first in Japanese and are then translated into other languages, but this one will be released worldwide on the same day.

BIG GOAL
A 45-foot-tall soccer ball on display in Boston was created to be the biggest one ever.
MIAMIBEACH WELCOMES
TEAM BRAZIL
TEAM COLOMBIA
TEAM JAPAN
TEAM ARGENTINA
Balls in Miami Beach

World Cup inspires public art

The 2026 FIFA World Cup has begun, and soccer matches are being held in 11 locations across the US. To engage visitors and local fans, host cities and their surrounding areas are filled with artistic attractions that celebrate the event. For example, Seattle, Washington, has soccer-themed murals; more than two dozen large, hand-painted soccer balls are filling a Fort Worth, Texas, square; and soccer ball sculptures by 23 different artists have been installed in parks and plazas in New York and New Jersey.

In South Florida, where matches are being played at Miami Stadium, the city of Miami Beach is showcasing *Arena of Nations*, a set of 48 inflatable soccer balls that are 16 feet tall. Each was designed to represent a team that qualified for the World Cup. Although visitors are encouraged to find the balls and take photos or videos with them, the city's mayor, Steven Meiner, said, "More than a photo opportunity, this activation brings the world to Miami Beach and celebrates the unmatched global spirit of fútbol."

Lili Cantero

In Miami's Wynwood Arts District, meanwhile, soccer fans can follow the Wynwood United Soccer Ball Art Trail to see 10 real balls that were hand-painted by artist Lili Cantero to celebrate past World Cups. The balls are in locations that relate to their subjects. A ball about Argentina's win in 2022, for instance, is located at an Argentinian restaurant.

"Every World Cup has its own story, its own emotion, its own heroes," Cantero said. "When I paint a ball, I am not just capturing a moment in soccer history. I am capturing what that moment meant to the people who lived it, the countries that celebrated it, and the fans who still carry it with them."

READER RECOMMENDS

Over the Hedge *PG (Peacock or rent on major platforms)*

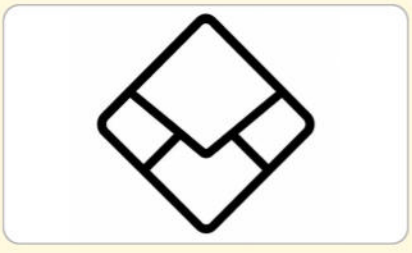
"This movie follows a raccoon, RJ, who finds himself in a difficult position after getting in trouble with an angry bear named Vincent. RJ has a week to repay Vincent with food, and he feels hopeless until he meets a group of animals that live in the woods near a suburban development. With their help, RJ gathers food to settle his debt. But at the same time, the group has to navigate local challenges and an exterminator trying to keep the animals away. It is a fantastic movie with a great soundtrack featuring music by Ben Folds. I highly recommend watching it." Caswell, 10, Pennsylvania

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

3 MORE PICKS TO ENJOY THIS WEEK

WATCH: THE KIMBERLEY: AUSTRALIA'S WILD WEST

The wildlife and landscapes of a vast wilderness region in Australia's North West are the focus of this documentary series. Among the highlighted animals are shrimp and octopuses living in coral reefs, wallabies braving crocodile-filled waters, and shorebirds preparing for migrations. (PBS)



CLICK: BOXSCORE

This site re-creates the way newspapers' sports pages used to cover Major League Baseball. It is updated daily with current standings, league leaders, box scores, and scheduled games. It also keeps track of players taken on and off the injured list and other changes. The information can be sent as an email newsletter too. (boxscore.email)

LISTEN: PUBERTY!: THE PODCAST

Molly Bloom from the award-winning science podcast Brains On hosts this new show that helps kids ages 7 to 12 understand the changes that come with growing up, such as growth spurts and deeper voices. She and a group of high school students answer listeners' questions with help from expert guests. (Major podcast platforms)

GETTY IMAGES (4); AP PHOTO/REBECCA BLACKWELL; DREAMWORKS ANIMATION; WILD PACIFIC MEDIA; BOXSCORE; LEMONADA MEDIA; ON LEFT PAGE: FIELD MUSEUM; THE POKÉMON COMPANY (2)

2026 Summer of Reading

THIS WEEK'S BOOK

Guardians: Forbidden Mountain

By Brandon Mull

This epic new fantasy series by the creator of the bestseller *Fablehaven* follows 14-year-olds Mako and Arden, whose journeys are told in alternating chapters. Mako was raised by a loving family on Mount Anora, where residents can bond with spiritual guardians. Mako chooses to bond with Narrix, who is part of a group of sinister beings. He becomes an apprentice to Rojan, an Anoran warmaster.

Meanwhile, Arden longs for adventure and feels stifled by her mother's rules. Her friend Kita vanishes after joining a gang, leading Arden to infiltrate the network to locate her missing pal.

After witnessing a lot of crime, Arden runs away and seeks protection from Rojan, who tasks Arden and Mako with rooting out corruption in the government. But Rojan isn't aware of a bargain Mako has made with Narrix—and the fatal repercussions that await.

The immersive world-building, complex characters, and anticipated dangers will keep you turning the 500-plus pages and make you eager for the next installment. *Ages 12+*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Do you believe that Mako and Arden meet through a series of "clumsy choices," or is it destiny?

The guardians give gifts to their hosts, but what benefits do you think the spirits receive in return?

Is 14 an ideal age to bond with a guardian? Explain.

What would have been the potential pros and cons Mako might have experienced if he had bonded with the other guardians?

Why is secrecy so valuable in the bonding process?

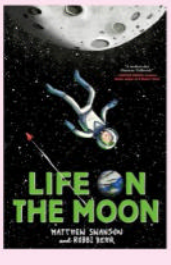
What is the most exciting chapter in the book?

Find your next great read

If you liked…

We Dream of Space
By Erin Entrada Kelly
Three seventh-grade siblings anticipate the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986. The shuttle's explosion changes their lives and brings them together in ways they never thought possible. ***Ages 8–12***

You might like…



Life on the Moon
By Matthew Swanson, illustrated by Robbi Behr
A curious 12-year-old boy has a chance to join the first Moon colony for a top-secret mission, but then disaster strikes. As this heartfelt story unfolds, the boy comes to accept what he can't change. ***Ages 8–12***

Guess the book this quote comes from

"But the truth was the drain had made him very slimy, and it was necessary for him to take a bath and sprinkle himself with a bit of his mother's violet water before he felt himself again."

Hint: This novel is about a brave mouse.

Answer: *Stuart Little* by E.B. White. In the first chapter, Stuart has to squeeze down a bathroom drain to retrieve his mother's valuable gold ring after it had fallen. *Ages 6+*

AUTHOR AMBASSADOR

Brandon Mull

Best-selling author Brandon Mull is known for his fantasy books for children and young adults, especially his popular *Fablehaven* series. As a young reader, he was excited by the fantasy books he enjoyed reading and wanted to contribute his own ideas in hopes of inspiring others.

What inspired the *Guardians* series?

Forbidden Mountain was partly inspired by the readers who tried my books when they were young and are now getting older and have started asking for grander, more epic stories. I wanted to tell a story about overcoming corruption—both the mistakes we make personally and the corruption that can exist in societies and governments. And I wanted to build a big, intense roller coaster of a read.

What do you enjoy about writing fantasy books for this age group?

I love that by writing for young readers, if I do my job well, I can create stories that a whole family can read and enjoy. The young main characters keep the book accessible to kids, but then if I write the adults like adults, build an interesting world, and develop a smart, twisty story, almost any reader can have a good time inside the book. *Harry Potter* showed me that these kinds of stories were possible.

Did you always want to be a writer?

I've always been a daydreamer. I naturally make up stories to help me survive frustrating or boring times.

Do you have a favorite author?

I was heavily influenced by C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and J.K. Rowling. The science fiction novel *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card was my favorite book in high school.

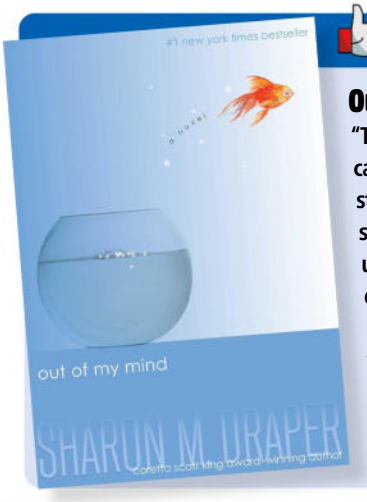
If you could pick one power, what would it be?

To heal people, especially if I had the power to heal their spiritual and emotional wounds as well as their physical ones.

Favorite summer activity?

Going to the beach. I grew up in Southern California and now live in Utah, so I miss the beach and love getting there when I can.

Reader recommends



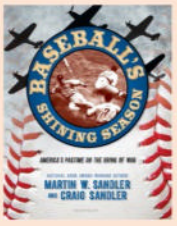
Out of My Mind *By Sharon M. Draper*

"This book is about a disabled girl named Melody, who can't walk or talk. She feels like everyone thinks she's stupid, but in reality she has a beautiful mind and is very smart. Sometimes she gets frustrated when people can't understand her. This all changes when she gets a special device called a Medi-Talker. Now she can answer questions in class, talk to her loved ones, and make friends! Watch how she slowly earns respect and becomes more confident." Emma, 11, Virginia

Do you have a book to recommend? We want to hear about it! With an adult's help, please send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

3 all-star reads about baseball

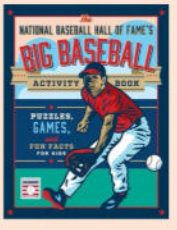
These new nonfiction books hit it out of the park.



Baseball's Shining Season

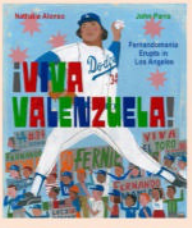
By Martin W. Sandler and Craig Sandler

In 1941, as Americans were on edge about getting involved in World World II, a baseball rivalry between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees provided a welcome distraction. Thanks to captivating photos and thrilling accounts of the championship games, you'll get caught up in this iconic period of baseball history. *Ages 10+*



The National Baseball Hall of Fame's Big Baseball Activity Book

Each of the nine chapters in this book dispenses fun facts about America's favorite pastime, from the first World Series (1903) to the player with the highest career batting average (catcher John Gibson). Puzzles and word searches based on baseball trivia are also included. *Ages 8+*



¡Viva Valenzuela!

By Nathalie Alonso, illustrated by John Parra

This biography about Fernando Valenzuela celebrates the excitement of his 1980 pitching debut for the Los Angeles Dodgers. When the iconic number 34 pitched eight consecutive wins, "Fernandomania" spread across the US and the Mexican American rookie player became a hero and an inspiration. *Ages 7–10*

Our annual list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most" and more can be found at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.

BOOKS: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: BUSATH PHOTOGRAPHY; GETTY IMAGES

WOW! There are about 91,000 insect species in the US, including 11,500 species of moths and butterflies.

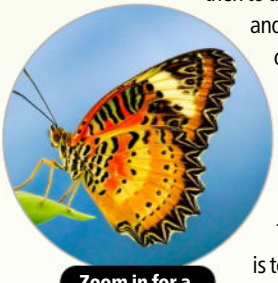
Take incredible pictures of nature

Find out how to capture the beauty of the natural world.

Nature photography is about documenting natural elements, from wildlife to flowers to landscapes. You can be a nature photographer anywhere, with a camera or with a phone. "Photography is really an adventure in paying attention. The more curious you are, the more interesting your pictures will become," said professional photographer Ami Vitale, one of the judges of *The Week Junior*'s Nature Photo Contest. (See the box at right for more on our judges and the next page for details about the contest.) Here's how to get started.

Choose a location

Decide where you would like to take your photos. That could be a yard, your neighborhood, or a local park. When you get there, explore the surroundings. "Peek through leaves, look into puddles, follow shadows, and notice tiny details that most people walk right past," says Vitale. If you look carefully, you might spot a squirrel with an acorn, a butterfly on a leaf, or mushrooms at the base of a tree.



Zoom in for a close-up!

Use light to your advantage

You can experiment with taking photos in different kinds of weather. A cloudy day may provide a moody backdrop to your pictures, while sunlight dancing on a lake may create a dazzling photo. One of the best times to shoot is early morning or later afternoon, when the sun is low in the sky. "Photographers call this the golden hour because everything seems to glow," Vitale says.

Vary your angles

Decide what you do and don't want to see inside the frame of your shot. When you're about to take your photo, look through the viewfinder of your camera or the screen of your phone. Turn the camera a little to the right, then to the left. Observe how this changes the shot and whether one side looks better. "Get down on the ground and look at the world through an ant's point of view," says Vitale. Point your camera toward the sky to capture that vantage point as well.

Keep experimenting

The best way to be a better photographer is to take more pictures. Photography is also about understanding the natural world. "Stay curious and be patient. "Learn about the subjects you're photographing," says Vitale. You could research local birds you see or find out what wildflowers are native in your area. "The best photographers aren't necessarily the ones with the best equipment. They're the ones who care deeply and keep showing up."

Meet our judges

Jesse Burke
He documents his family's life on their farm, where they raise hens, pigs, and Flemish giant bunnies. He also captures the relationship between people and nature. See his work at jesseburke.com.

Angela Ledyard
She was drawn to photography after watching her grandparents take photos. Her subjects range from sunrises to the Milky Way. See her work at angelaledyard.com.

Ami Vitale
She is considered one of the most influential conservation photographers in the profession and explores connections between people and the planet. See her work at amivitale.com.

Enter our Nature Photo Contest!

THE WEEK Junior
MOTHER NATURE
Announcing the winners of our fifth annual photo contest! pT2
Our contest winners!
Nature Photo Contest AGES 8-10
Nature Photo Contest AGES 11-14

The winning images from last year's contest

Do you love taking photographs of plants, flowers, trees, and wildlife? When you're outdoors, are you often trying to capture the amazing beauty of the natural world? If so, now is your chance to use your creativity, curiosity, and skills to enter *The Week Junior*'s annual Nature Photo Contest.

The deadline to enter is July 28!

How to enter

- **Consider the judging criteria.** Submissions will be judged on quality (clear, well-composed photographs that aren't blurry), originality (the use of creativity and imagination through the camera lens), and how well they reflect the nature theme and *The Week Junior*. Entries must be original and not generated or altered by artificial intelligence.
- **Choose one photo to enter.** Only one photograph per entrant is allowed.
- **Fill out the form.** With a parent, complete an entry form and submit it by July 28, 2026.
- **Enter the correct age group category.** Children ages 8 to 10 will be judged in one category. Children ages 11 to 14 will be judged in another category. Winners will be selected from each category. The entry form for 8- to 10-year-olds is at **tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2026PhotoContest-8-10**. The entry form for 11- to 14-year-olds is at **tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2026PhotoContest-11-14**.

NO PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION NECESSARY. Open to legal residents of US, DC, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, 8–14 years. Professional artists are not eligible. Ends 11:59:59 p.m. ET 7/28/2026. Void where prohibited. See official rules at theweekjunior.com/photocontestrules. Sponsor: Future US LLC.

The judges

The Nature Photo Contest will be judged by Editorial Director Andrea Barbalich, Creative Director Dean Abatemarco, and Photo Editors Nataki Hewling and Lily Alt. The entries will also be judged by three award-winning professional photographers: Jesse Burke, Angela Ledyard, and Ami Vitale.

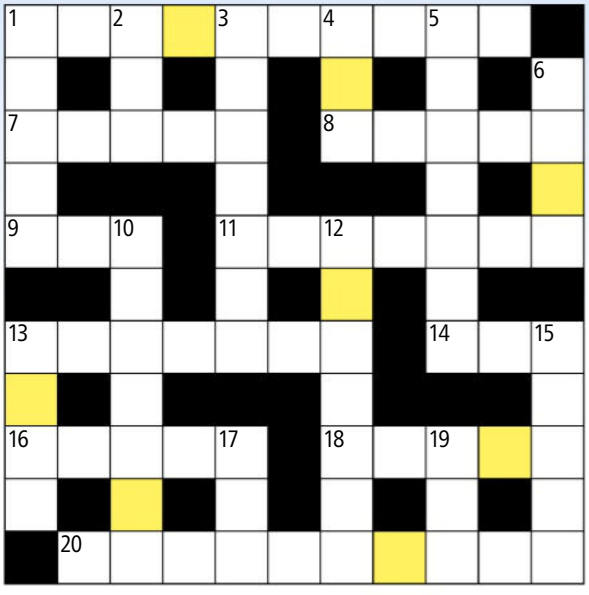
The prize

The winning entries may be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Week Junior*.

ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); COURTESY THE JUDGES (3)

Keyword crossword

Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, from top to bottom, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.



ACROSS

1 The flavor of candy canes
7 Item stuck to a mailed envelope
8 The speed at which a musician should play
9 Segment of a circle's outline
11 Fancy vacation spots that have pools and spas
13 Japanese warrior
14 Where your napkin belongs while you dine
16 Body of water surrounding a continent
18 Person who makes a living playing parts
20 Mysterious, prehistoric circle of giant slabs in England

DOWN

1 Linguini or ziti, for example
2 Round green veggie that grows in a pod
3 Title for the ruler of a realm of many countries
4 Exerciser's surface
5 Roman ___ (I, V, or X, for example)
6 Items like dolls, yo-yos, and marbles
10 You might write one in response to a social media post
12 Green vegetable that gives Popeye his strength
13 Production performed on a stage
15 Bag that might hold a wallet or lipstick
17 Type of religious woman often wearing black and white
19 Cookie containers are often made of this

Keyword question: In 2022, what was removed from a sidewalk and placed in a museum because it was officially the last of its kind in New York City?

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like SALT LAKE CITY, HOT-AIR BALLOON, or FLAG FOOTBALL. Compound words like FOOTBALL are allowed.

LONG MAN WEB SPIDER WIDE COMICS WORLD LEGS DADDY

Cutting room

Divide this grid into five sections so each section consists of five adjacent boxes containing the numbers 1–5. The sections may have different shapes.

5	2	3	4	3
3	4	2	1	1
4	1	5	4	3
5	2	1	1	2
3	4	5	2	5

CODE CRACKER

In this coded list of slang for "asleep," every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded G. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

B H E E Y L H X

M V K M Q L H X B E T R Y ' B

E W K F L D R V F L X Q K

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a pair of pigeons appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Code cracker hint: Every H here is an uncoded N.

Jacket designed to calm people

The Vollebak clothing company has created a new jacket that is fitted with 180 miniature speakers. The Sonic Jacket was designed to use sound waves to change how people feel. Its speakers face inward and play sounds to make the wearer feel calm. A few people have already tested the jacket, including Vollebak co-founder Nick Tidball, who told *Dezeen* magazine that some of the sounds put him into a "meditative state." The company plans to start selling the jacket by 2027.

A wild getaway in the desert

"Wildlife" has a new meaning at the Coyote Casita near Taos, New Mexico. The two-story vacation rental is shaped like the head of a coyote. Designed by artist Johnny DeFeo, it was made from a mud-like material and sprinkled with mica, a mineral that sparkles in the sun. People walk past the coyote's fangs to enter through its open mouth. Amber-colored windows form eyes, and a loft bedroom and patio are built into the snout. DeFeo told *The New York Times* that it was his first sculpture, "and it just happened to be a house."

Teen sets toy speed record

A 15-year-old in Singapore has broken the world record for the fastest time to assemble a Mr. Potato Head toy. After about 20 tries, Calen Seah completed the task in 4.63 seconds. The previous record, set in 2024, was 4.75 seconds. Through many years of solving puzzle cubes, Seah has developed super-fast fingers. In 2023, he decided to turn his attention to a favorite toy from his childhood. Seah said that achieving his dream of earning a Guinness World Records title felt "slightly unreal."

Audience member saves the day

When a musician became ill at an event in Australia, an audience member bravely stepped in to give an impromptu performance. Halfway through a live orchestra concert accompanying the movie *La La Land*, the keyboard player had to leave the stage. Composer Justin Hurwitz asked the audience of 2,500 if anyone could play the piano. Sterling Nasa sat down at the keyboard and performed a score of music he had never seen before, receiving a standing ovation. Is this story true, or have we gone off-script?*

*Real! To keep the show going, Justin Hurwitz asked for volunteers from the crowd. Musician Sterling Nasa played the rest of the music with the orchestra, improvising in a particularly tough part. "It was remarkable," Hurwitz said.

VOLLEBAK: GETTY IMAGES (2); JOHNNYDEFEO.COM; GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

Editor's note

The Week Junior offices are located in New York City, so the NBA Finals between the New York Knicks and the San Antonio Spurs were very exciting for our editorial team (p5). We have many lifelong Knicks fans among us—and even those who don't follow professional basketball closely were rooting for the orange and blue to win their first NBA championship in 53 years. The 29-point comeback in Game 4 was almost too amazing to believe, and the victory in Game 5 led to an outpouring of joy in the streets. I'm happy for all the Knicks fans who had waited for that moment for so long. Congratulations to the Spurs, too, for putting up a strong challenge to the Knicks. In other major sports news in this issue, you can read about the start of the FIFA World Cup (p18) and the Carolina Hurricanes' victory over the Vegas Golden Knights to capture the National Hockey League's coveted Stanley Cup (p19).

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Plan International USA

This group, founded in 1937, focuses on improving girls' rights and increasing gender equality worldwide. It teaches girls to advocate for themselves and ensures that they have equal access to educational opportunities. It also works to make sure children stay safe and can build a better future. The organization operates in thousands of communities in more than 80 countries. Find out more at planusa.org.

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

Inspiring a passion for space

Elina, 9, Washington

"I visited the Grand Canyon and brought a copy of *The Week Junior* with me. While I was there, I attended Night Sky, an event hosted by Dr. Dan Fleisch, a professor emeritus of physics at Wittenberg University. The next day, I got to meet him in person and was fascinated to know that he has a (minor) planet named after him. I really enjoyed learning about astrophysics from Dr. Fleisch. Based on what I learned from him, I plan to conduct a talk for my class to inspire others to get interested in astrophysics. In this photograph, I am holding a meteor rock from Mars!"

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK

What can't lefties hold in their right hand?

Their right elbow

We published a book!

***The Week Junior* has created its first-ever bookazine (a combination of a book and a magazine). The title is *All About America*, and it celebrates this year's 250th anniversary of our nation's founding in 1776. The 100-page book is packed with fascinating facts about the amazing people, ideas, events, and landmarks that make our country special. Think of it as a road map of the American spirit! To find out more about it, have an adult go with you to magazineshop.us/theweekjunior. *All About America* is also available at bookstores and grocery stores throughout the country.**

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"I went to the National Zoo to see Linh Mai after reading her story in *The Week Junior*. 'Sassy' definitely suits her." Caleb, 10, Maryland

"I made the taco pizza! We added some tofu and made it a rectangular pizza, and it was delicious." Saroja, 9, Georgia

"Noodles are my favorite food! I was amazed to learn that you did an entire article on them!" Abhinav, 11, California

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Maurisa Davis**

School: **Angier Elementary School**

"Ms. Davis has a fun-loving spirit and a jovial attitude. Out of all my teachers, she's my favorite. Ms. Davis makes our class smile and laugh every day. She teaches us about math and social studies but also about social injustice in the world and how we can make a change. Ms. Davis has been a huge influence on me and my classmates, and I think she deserves this honor very much."

Simon, 11, Massachusetts

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

P	E	P	P	E	R	M	I	N	T					
A		E		M		A		U		T				
S	T	A	M	P			T	E	M	P	O			
T				E				E		Y				
A	R	C		R	E	S	O	R	T	S				
		O		O		P		A						
S	A	M	U	R	A	I		L	A	P				
H		M				N				U				
O	C	E	A	N		A	C	T	O	R				
W		N		U		C		I		S				
	S	T	O	N	E	H	E	N	G	E				

Keyword answer: Pay phone

Code cracker
snoozing
catching some Z's
out like a light

Three for all
Spider-Man comics
World Wide Web
daddy longlegs

5	2	3	4	3
3	4	2	1	1
4	1	5	4	3
5	2	1	1	2
3	4	5	2	5

Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 c) Som **2** 48 **3** c) Randy Bresnik **4** False. Mako bonds with Narrix. **5** Taylor Swift **6** b) 1901 **7** False. He received a bionic arm. **8** c) Folarin Balogun **9** b) San Diego Zoo **10** True **11** The Vegas Golden Knights **12** a) Chicago **13** True **14** a) 1973 **15** Mr. Potato Head

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What was the name of the winner of the International Tree Kangaroo Crunch-a-Thon?
a) Bom b) Lom c) Som
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 How many inflatable soccer balls are in Miami Beach's *Arena of Nations* display?

3 Which NASA astronaut will serve as the commander of the Artemis III mission?
a) Andre Douglas b) Frank Rubio
c) Randy Bresnik
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 True or false? In the book *Guardians: Forbidden Mountain*, Arden bonds with the spirit guardian Narrix.
True ☐ False ☐

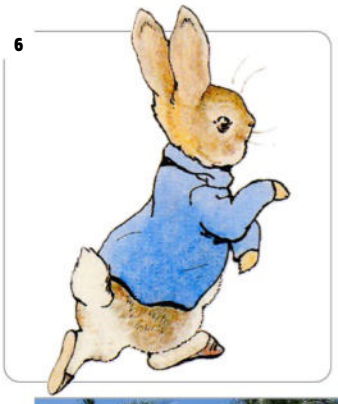
5 Who became the youngest woman ever inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame?

6 In what year did Beatrix Potter first print copies of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*?
a) 1866 b) 1901 c) 1913
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 True or false? Praveen Gowtham is the first person to receive a full-length, 3D-printed bionic leg.
True ☐ False ☐

8 Which US player scored two goals in the team's opening match at the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
a) Christian Pulisic b) Gio Reyna
c) Folarin Balogun
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6



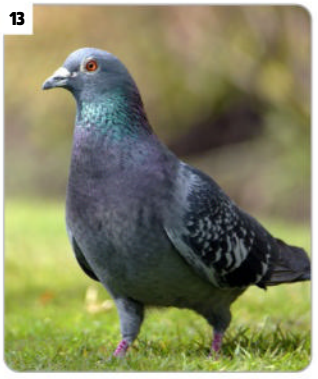
12

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

2

14

13



9 Three bat-eared fox kits were recently born at which US zoo?
a) Sacramento Zoo
b) San Diego Zoo
c) St. Louis Zoo
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? Elim Chan will be the first woman to lead the San Francisco Symphony.
True ☐ False ☐

11 What hockey team did the Carolina Hurricanes defeat in this year's Stanley Cup Final?

12 An exhibition of Pokémon "fossils" is on display at a museum in what city?
a) Chicago b) Boston
c) San Francisco
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? A recent study found that pigeons began living closely alongside humans about 1,000 years earlier than previously believed.
True ☐ False ☐

14 In what year did the New York Knicks last win the National Basketball Association championship?
a) 1973
b) 1983
c) 1993
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 Singapore teen Calen Seah set a world record for the fastest time assembling what toy?

THE WEEK Junior

Editorial director: Andrea Barbalich
Executive editor: Mindy Walker
Senior editors: Joey Bartolomeo, Gail O'Connor, Alisa Partlan, Jennifer Li Shotz
Associate editor: Brielle Diskin
Assistant editor: Asha Sridhar
Senior writer: Brandon Wiggins
Staff writer: Felissa Allard
Senior research editor: Douglas Grant
Creative director: Dean Abatemarco
Production director: Paul Kramer
Senior art director: Victoria Beall
Photo editors: Lily Alt, Nataki Hewling
Contributors: Stephanie Abramson, Karen Cicero, Erica Clark, Stacy Cousino, Susie Dent, Truman Devitt, Dave Howard, Joy Howard, Jodi Levine, Puzzability, Melisa Russo, Susan Schulz Wuornos, Jordan Zakarin
Managing director, news: Richard Campbell
Brand director, news: Harry Haydon
Senior vice president: Joel Griffiths
Senior director, consumer marketing: Leslie Guarnieri
Marketing director: Colleen Shire Ho
Digital marketing director: Katie Hay
Account director: Mary Gallagher (*mary.gallagher@futurenet.com*)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Operations manager: Cassandra Mondonedo

Reader submissions: *hello@theweekjunior.com*
Customer service: *TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com*
New subscriptions: TheWeekJunior.com
©2026. All rights reserved. *The Week* and *The Week Junior* are registered trademarks. Neither the whole of this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publishers.
The Week Junior (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 2, January 9, July 10, and September 11. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior,* PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

FUTURE
Connectors. Creators. Experience Makers.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR)
www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive Officer **Kevin Li Ying**
Non-Executive Chairman **Mark Brooker**
Chief Financial Officer **Sharjeel Suleman**
Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244

ALAMY; THE POKÉMON COMPANY; GETTY IMAGES (2); NEW YORK KNICKS

Keep kids reading all summer long!

The Week Junior invites our readers to jump into a summer of super adventures through our Summer of Reading challenge.

Reading can take kids anywhere they can think of. They can be the hero of a thousand stories, this summer and beyond.

Bring along a friend, create a summer book club, or give a gift of *The Week Junior* and treat another child to a summer of reading adventures.

Makes a great gift!

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
THE WEEK Junior
Making sense of the world
Stepping into HISTORY
Find out about the first NASA astronauts who walked on the Moon p12
DID YOU KNOW?
The first Moon landing took place on July 20, 1969.
Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the lunar surface.
Their world-famous mission was called Apollo 11.

Order a 25 weekly issue subscription of *The Week Junior* and get two free gifts!
Visit theweekjunior.com/smartfun

THE WEEK Junior

BIRD BY THE SEA

Pelicans are highly social waterbirds known for their large throat pouches, which hold up to three gallons of water and are used to catch fish.

GETTY IMAGES

9001
9000